



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 15, 2001

TO: **Internal File**

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist and Project Team Lead 

RE: Bear Canyon Mine Coal Refuse, Hiawatha Coal Company, Hiawatha Mines,
C/007/011-AM01C

SUMMARY:

In a proposal received April 27 and modified May 8, 2001, Hiawatha Coal Company is requesting approval to receive coal mine waste from the Bear Canyon Mine and place it in slurry pond 5A or in its embankment. The Division asked the permittee for the Bear Canyon Mine, Co-Op Mining Company, to have a place to put refuse that might be generated during construction of the Wild Horse Ridge surface facilities. An official with the Bear Canyon Mine insists no refuse will actually be taken to Hiawatha; however, this amendment would ensure there is a place to put coal mine waste resulting from construction at Wild Horse Ridge.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.19, 784.25, 817.71, 817.72, 817.73, 817.74, 817.81, 817.83, 817.84, 817.87, 817.89; R645-100-200, -301-210, -301-211, -301-212, -301-412, -301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-521, -301-526, -301-528, -301-535, -301-536, -301-542, -301-553, -301-745, -301-746, -301-747.

Analysis:

Coal mine waste

The applicant proposes to receive coal mine waste from the Bear Canyon Mine and to dispose of it in slurry pond 5A or the embankment of 5A. Reuse pile 1 and slurry pond 1 have

TECHNICAL MEMO

been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, so they cannot be used for this purpose. Slurry pond 5A has been modified enough that it is not considered eligible.

In the amendment proposal, the applicant commits to test the material for acid and/or toxic-forming properties and, if any tests are positive, to cover it with at least four feet of non-toxic and non-acid-forming material.

Slurry pond 5A has been inactive as a slurry pond since the preparation plan closed and was demolished several years ago. Slurry pond 5A is now used only as a sediment pond although it is large enough to be covered under Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations. Only a small portion of the pond actually impounds water.

Placing refuse in the pond or embankment should have no effect on the pond's functionality. It is important, however, that it be inspected when refuse is being added and that the annual inspection include measurements to ensure adequate storage volume remains.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The amendment can be accepted in its present form.